

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 19 and 21 are currently being amended, while claim 4 is currently being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter expressed therein. Additionally, new claims 24-65 are currently being added.

These amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for acknowledging claims 3-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate previously pending claim 4 therein. Claims 2-3, 5-9, and 11-23 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and as such, include all of the limitations therein.

Additionally, Applicant has submitted new claims 24-65 herewith this response. New claim 24 is based on previously pending claim 1 and previously pending claim 3. Further, new claims 25-44 depend directly or indirectly from new claim 24, and as such, include all of the limitations therein. With respect to new claim 45, claim 45 is based on previously pending claim 1 and previously pending claim 6. As for new claims 46-65, the newly added aforementioned claims depend directly or indirectly from new claim 45, and as such, include all of the limitations therein.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully believes claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-65 are novel and patentably distinct from the references of record. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 8-9, and 11-23 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Applicant has amended claim 1 as discussed *supra*. Accordingly, given the Examiner's discussion on page 4, line 11 - page 5, line 2 (titled "Allowable Subject Matter") in the currently pending Office Action, Applicant respectfully believes the instant rejection has been obviated, and claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-65 are novel and patentably distinct from the references of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above remarks, the presently claimed subject matter is believed to be novel and patentably distinguishable over the references of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection, and allow all pending claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-65. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned practitioner with any questions or comments.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Jarrold N. Raphael
Registration No. 55,566
Customer No. 34872

Date: July 16, 2008
Delaware Corporate Center II
2 Righter Parkway, Suite 300
Wilmington, Delaware 19803
Telephone No.: 302-683-8176
Fax No.: 302-731-6408

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